

Remarks

Claims 1-20 and 23-24 are currently pending in the Application.

Telephone conference

Applicants thank the Examiner and his supervisor for the many courtesies extended during the telephone conferences held with Attorney Alex Krayner and Attorney Richard Berg on February 9, 2007 and February 13, 2007. During the telephone conferences, the Examiner and his supervisor suggested claim amendments to clarify the language of the claims and to overcome the cited references.

Summary of claim amendments

This response amends Claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 as suggested by the Examiner and his supervisor during the telephone conference of February 13, 2007 to clarify the language of the claims.

This response also amends Claims 17-20 to correspond to the amended Claims 1, 5, 9 and 13.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C §103(a)

Claims 1-20 and 23-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,958,222 to Takakura and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,326,675 to Scott.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner but solely in the interest of passing this case to issue have hereby amended the claims to clarify the language of the claims as suggested by the Examiner and his supervisor during the telephone conference of February 13, 2007.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that all claims as currently amended are novel and nonobvious over the art on record and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and pass all claims to issue.

Conclusion

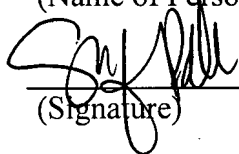
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

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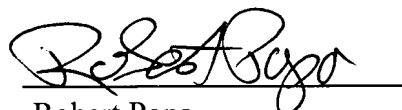
April 9, 2007
(Date of Deposit)

Stefanie N. Pallan
(Name of Person Signing)


(Signature)

April 9, 2007
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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Petition for a two-month extension of
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